

USSR-EASTERN EUROPE: Soviet Missile Deployments

The Soviets have confirmed to West German officials that SS-22 missiles will be deployed in East Germany and Czechoslovakia in response to NATO's INF deployments, and they have implied that other Soviet missile modernization programs will be kept separate from the discussion on INF. []

A West German parliamentary delegation in Moscow in mid-October was given a map showing launchsites in East Germany and Czechoslovakia for missiles with a range of 1,000 kilometers. Soviet [] later told West German [] that the deployment of these missiles, "which the West designates as the SS-22s" will represent the military countermeasures to NATO's INF deployments. []

[] also told [] that the replacement of short-range FROG-7 missiles with SS-21s, which has been in progress since 1981, is not a countermeasure. According to [] this is an "entirely normal modernization that will be continued independent of any agreement in Geneva on INF." []

[] gained the impression that the Soviets intend to proceed with already-planned replacements of the Scud B's in Eastern Europe with the SS-23 missile, even if the West were to decide not to deploy Pershing II's and cruise missiles. [] implied that, if the Western deployments did not take place, Moscow would limit the SS-22s to the western military districts of the USSR. []

Comment: Deployments of the SS-22—an improved version of the SS-12—in East Germany and Czechoslovakia could begin following the arrival of cruise missiles in the UK this week or of Pershing II components in West Germany on 23 November. At the latest, Moscow probably will begin deployment by the time INF systems become operational in mid-December. []

Although the Soviets apparently have not yet decided how to proceed after they walk out of the INF talks following NATO deployments, [] assured [] that the dialogue on INF will be continued. By limiting announced countermeasures to the SS-22 deployments in Eastern Europe, Moscow retains the option of canceling the countermeasures without affecting its ongoing modernization programs. []



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